

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 L-03 /018 W

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O 221925Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5159

AMCONSUL BELEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 3433

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (DAVIS, JOHN W)

SUBJECT: WELFARE OF JOHN W. DAVIS

REF: (A) STATE 094455; (B) STATE 097102

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN HANDLING DAVIS CASE DIRECTLY AND IS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS. DAVIS AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAVE CALLED FROM TIME TO TIME AT EMBASSY, MOST RECENTLY ON APRIL 19, OR AT CONSULATE BELEM TO INFORM US OF STATUS OF CASE OR TO SEEK ASSISTANCE. ON APRIL 20 AMCONSUL BELEM SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH DAVIS FAMILY MEMBERS WHO SAID THAT ALL WERE SAFE AND THAT SITUATION AT PROPERTY WAS UNCHANGED. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT GOB AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR PROTECTION. POLICE CONTINUE TO VISIT AREA WITH RELATIVE FREQUENCY. ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION DAVIS HAD INFORMED EMBASSY AND CONSULATE BELEM OF THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY MEMBERS, AND WE HAVE INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY, FEDERAL POLICE AND PARA STATE SECURITY AUTHORITIES OF THESE THREATS.

2. BRIEFLY, CASE INVOLVES DAVIS' EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD "AGUA AZUL," ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND HECTARE LUMBER HOLDINGS IN PARA STATE, AGAINST ENCROACHMENT BY SQUATTERS. DAVIS HAS LITIGATED EXTENSIVELY IN LOCAL COURTS TO PROTECT TITLE TO LANDS AND HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES FOR HELP IN PROTECTING PROPERTY AND EMPLOYEES AGAINST ALLEGED MARAUDING BY SQUATTERS. CASE HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECOME SOMETHING OF CAUSE CELEBRE IN PARA STATE, WITH SOME

TENDENTIOUS PRESS COVERAGE. ON MARCH 19 EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLING ATTENTION TO POTENTIAL THREAT OF PHYSICAL HARM AND PROPERTY DAMAGE AT AGUA AZUL AND REQUESTING INVESTIGATION BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOB AGENCIES. FOREIGN MINISTRY ACKNOWLEDGED NOTE ON APRIL 8 ADDING THAT CASE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

3. EMBASSY AND AMCONSULATE BELEM ARE IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH DAVISES AND WILL CONTINUE FOLLOWING SITUATION AT AGUA AZUL CLOSELY. COPIES OF NOTE VERBALE AND BACKGROUND MEMORANDA PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED BY POUCH TO ARA/BR. JOHNSON

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